

Growth Management Services Critical Areas and Best Available Science Information Page

In 1995 the GMA was amended to require counties and cities to include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas. All counties and cities in the state are required to review, evaluate, and, if necessary, review their critical areas ordinances according to a schedule established by the state Legislature and approved by the Governor in 2002. Local governments can use information from the list below in developing their GMA Update.

[Best Available Science Citations Document](#)

[Best Available Science WAC](#)

Critical Areas Assistance Handbook

Download Critical Areas Assistance Handbook directly to your PC

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook: Protecting Critical Areas Within the Framework of the Washington Growth Management Act, 2003](#)

CD-ROM Version zip file – need to double click on index.htm when user unzips/extracts files (**automatically downloads to your PC**)

View Critical Areas Assistance Handbook sections:

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix A](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix B](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix C](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix D](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix E](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix F](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix G](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix H](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix I](#)

[Critical Areas Assistance Handbook Appendix J](#)

[Findings of Fact](#)

[Local CA example: Bremerton](#)

[Local CA example: Cashmere](#)

[Local CA example: Cheney](#)

[Local CA example: Clark Co](#)

[Local CA example: Edgewood](#)

[Local Ca example: La Center](#)

Shoreline Master Program Guidelines (WAC 173-26)

- [Download formatted version of SMP Guidelines](#) (PDF file)
- [Code Revisers Office version of new SMP Guidelines](#) (*includes Parts I, II, III and IV*)
- [Supporting documents](#) (*Responsiveness Summary, EIS, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Small Business Economic Impact Statement*)
- [Guidance on SMP development](#)
- [Questions and Answers on ESHB 1933: Critical area protection under the Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act](#)
- [ESHB 1933: 2003 Legislature amendments to SMA and GMA](#)

[Department of Ecology Shoreline Management site](#)